

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 05006 080921Z  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /063 W  
-----080926Z 069182 /10

R 080818Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9871  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 5006

SONGKHLA 0045 DATED R 070845Z MAR 77 BEING REPEATED TO YOU  
FOR YOUR INFO:

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SONGKHLA 0045

E.O. 11652: DS  
TAGS: PINTS, PINT, TH  
SUBJ: MUSLIMS RESENT OBSTACLES TO HADJI PILGRIMAGE

SUMMARY: RECENTLY THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT (RTG) HAS INSISTED  
ON VERY SUBSTANTIAL GUARANTEES BEFORE ISSUING PASSPORTS TO  
MUSLIMS IN THE SOUTH. THIS IS BEING INTERPRETED HERE AS A PLOY  
TO PREVEN MUSLIMS FROM MAKING THE ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA.  
RTG MAY HAVE OTHER REASONS FOR INSTITUTING THE NEW POLICY, BUT  
THE IMMEDIATE IMPACT IS ONE OF INCREASED DISAFFECTION IN THE  
MUSLIM COMMUNITIES. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO MUSLIMS IN YALA, NARATHIWAT, AND PATTANI, THE  
RTG HAS ADOPTED A NEW POLICY TOWARD ISSUING PASSPORTS TO MUSLIMS  
IN THESE PROVINCES. IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A PASSPORT, MUSLIMS MUST  
NOW OFFER A GUARANTEE OF 200,000 BAHT OR ITS EQUIVALENT IN LAND  
DEEDS. IN ADDITION, MUSLIMS SAY THEY ARE NOW REQUIRED TO DEPOSIT  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 05006 080921Z

30,000 BAHT IN A GOVERNMENT BANK WHICH IS KEPT THERE FOR THE  
DURATION OF THEIR TRAVEL ABROAD.

2. THESE FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS HAVE REPORTEDLY REDUCED SUB-  
STANTIALLY THE NUMBER OF MUSLIMS FROM THE SOUTH ABLE TO MAKE  
THE ANNUAL HADJI PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA. IN ADDITION MUSLIMS  
ABLE TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS RESENT THE FACT THAT THE RTG HAS

THE USE OF THE MONEY DEPOSITED IN THE GOVERNMENT BANK WHICH THEY WOULD PREFER TO INVEST ELSEWHERE.

3. IT IS UNLIKELY, ALTHOUGH NOT INCONCEIVABLE, THAT THE RTG IS ACTUALLY TRYING TO PREVENT MUSLIMS FROM FULFILLING THE HADJI SACREMENT. A MORE PLAUSIBLE EXPLANATION IS THE FIINANCIAL ONE. MOREOVER, MUSLIM TRADERS ON PILGRIMAGE TRADITIONALLY TAKE LARGE QUANTITIES OF MERCHANDISE WITH THEM TO SELL IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHERE THEY REALIZE A MUCH GREATER PROFIT THAN IS POSSIBLE LOCALLY. MONEY FROM THESE SALES IS OFTEN REINVESTED IN LAND OR OTHER PROPERTY IN THE SOUTH. FINALLY, IN SOME CASES THERE COULD BE AN ATTEMPT TO DISCOURAGE THAI-MUSLIM CONTACTS WITH ARAB LEADERS. THE NET EFFECT OF THESE NEW MEASURES HAS BEEN GROWING HOSTILITY TOWARD THE GOVERNMENT WHICH SOME OBSERVERS FEEL COULD BECOME SERIOUS.

4. AT THE SAME TIME WE HAVE HAD A NUMBER OF REPORTS OF MISTREATMENT OF MUSLIM VILLAGERS DURING POLICE OPERATIONS AGAINST BANDIT/SEPARATISTS IN THE PAST MONTH. AS A RESULT OF INCREASED OPERATIONS, MANY SEPARATIST LEADERS HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN DRIVEN DEEP INTO THE JUNGLE OR HAVE FLED TO MALAYSIA. A MUSLIM OFFICIAL IN YALA TOLD CONSULATE POLITICAL ASSISTANT THAT ONE SEPARATIST LEADER, CHE GU DING, WAS NOW IN LIBYA.

5. COMMENT: GENERALLY SEPARATIST ACTIVITY HAS BEEN AT A LOW LEVEL SINCE THE RECENT SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS BEGAN IN THE SOUTH. HOPEFULLY RTG ACTIONS AFFECTING ORDINARY MUSLIMS WILL NOT BECOME AN ISSUE WHICH CAN BE EXPLOITED BY MORE EXTREME GROUPS. DESPITE LACK OF EVIDENCE, SOUTHERN OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO INSIST  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 05006 080921Z

ON LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE SEPARATIST MOVEMENT IN SOUTHERN THAILAND. ANOTHER OFFICIAL IN PATTANI SAID RECENTLY THAT WORD WAS CIRCULATING THAT COL. GADAFI WOULD VISIT MALAYSIA SOON AND THAT DURING HIS TRIP HE WOULD TALK WITH TUNKU YALA NASAE THE ORIGINAL SEPARATIST LEADER WHO HAS LONG SINCE BEEN GRANTED ASYLUM IN KELANTAN STATE, MALAYSIA.

HAMILTON UNQTE  
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MOSLEMS, TRAVEL CONTROLS, VISAS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 08-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977BANGKO05006  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770079-0134  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** BANGKOK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770384/aaaacvtt.tel  
**Line Count:** 105  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** b63b81bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3182202  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MUSLIMS RESENT OBSTACLES TO HADJI PILGRIMAGE SUMMARY: RECENTLY THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT (RTG) HAS INSISTED ON VERY SUBSTANTIAL GUARANTEES BEFORE IS SUING PASS  
**TAGS:** CVIS, PINT, TH  
**To:** STATE KUALA LUMPUR  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/b63b81bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009